

Farming Stockraising Gardening

TESTS SHOW HOGS THRIVE ON ALFALFA AND SMALL GRAINS

Bushel of Wheat Will Produce Thirteen Pounds Gain in Weight—Barley Makes High Grade Meat.

The growing of swine and the production of pork are industries that today are claiming increasing attention throughout the northwest. Experiments with grains which may take the place of corn for feeding purposes are of the greatest interest to farmers in this region, because the small grains are often grown in abundance and form the basis of all rations. A great amount of wheat, barley and rye is fed in the form of mill products, and is of course ground. In common practice also, these grains are ground more generally than corn, as they are usually much harder. The greater liability of these small grains to pass through the animal undigested shows the correctness of such practice.

Best Results With Wheat.

Chief among the small grains is wheat, and it appears to be the food best adapted for long-continued feeding. The advisability of feeding wheat or any other grain, however, depends upon market prices and economic conditions. It could hardly be regarded as economical to use wheat as stock feed at the high prices now prevailing. A bushel of wheat properly fed to reasonably well-bred hogs produced approximately 13 pounds gain in weight. The results of a number of feeding tests show that there is comparatively little difference in feeding value between wheat and corn.

In comparing various rations in which corn, wheat, and rye were fed alone or in combination with each other, it was found that dry, ground wheat gave the greatest returns and required the least amount of grain to make 100 pounds of gain. Wheat should be ground and mixed with some supplement, such as tankage, and fed in this manner. The results obtained from a number of tests have proved this to be a good practice.

Barley Produces Best Pork.

In Great Britain and northern Europe barley takes the place of corn for pork production, feeding all grains in producing pork of fine quality, both as to hardness and flavor. Considerable study in the United States has been made of the value of barley as pig feed, and the results have shown that it compares very favorably with corn, but has a feeding value somewhat below that of wheat. What this grain may lack in feeding value, however, it more than makes up in its effect on the carcass. As a high grade pig feed it far surpasses any other grain, and this fact makes possible the production of pork of the first quality in regions where barley is produced abundantly. Ground or rolled barley is best fed in combination with wheat middlings, skim milk, roots, alfalfa, etc.

Value of Rye.

Rye meal ranks a little below corn and about equal to barley meal as a feed for swine. Rye produces satisfactory pork, especially when it is fed with other grains. It is an extremely heavy, concentrated feed, and will usually give best results when fed not to exceed one-third of the ration. In many sections rye is much esteemed as pasture, especially where the soils are rather light, and in such instances "hogging off" proves profitable.

Alfalfa Pasture and Hay.

Since economical pork production depends largely upon the consumption of a great deal of cheaply grown feed, the pasture should be managed so that the forage produced will be clean, tender, and palatable. Many successful hog raisers prefer to use such crops as alfalfa and clover for both pasture and hay at the same time. The number of hogs generally turned into a field is so limited that the usual crops of hay are made.

NILES.

NILES, Mich., Feb. 27.—The funeral services for the late Mrs. Thomas Howard will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence on Broadway, Rev. R. A. Wright will officiate.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Dodd will entertain the Howard township Pilch club Saturday evening.

Frederick Ausmus is critically ill. The funeral services for the late Mrs. Edward Pascoe were held Friday in Buchanan. The body was taken to Cassopolis for burial in the family lot where the remains of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dushoff, rest.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Noble and daughter, Ruth, attended the services in Buchanan and accompanied the funeral party to Cassopolis.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Walisser, who have had apartments at the C. J. Tappan home, left today for their home in Butte, Mont.

Stanley Storms is at Ypsanti to spend a few days with his sister, Mrs. Lucille. He will also go to Detroit.

Miss Alice Willets has gone to St. Joseph to take a course of mineral baths.

Mr. and Mrs. George Huntington have returned from LaGrange, Ill.

Misses Bertha and Ethel Ross have gone to South Haven to spend Sunday.

Mrs. August Mantke and daughter have gone to Chicago.

WALNUT GROVE.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Strong and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ruth H. Lydick Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lydick were guests of Mrs. E. A. Fink and family of South Bend Sunday.

Miss Verna Wise was the guest of Miss Sadie Rough Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lydick were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stahr of South Bend Sunday.

Mr. Charles Sellers was here on business last Tuesday.

The German patent office rejects about two-thirds of the 45,000 applications it receives annually.

Build Concrete Silo Right And it Will Not Crumble

An anonymous booklet, evidently prepared to discourage farmers from building concrete and tile silos, has recently been circulated in some parts of the country. The booklet consists of photographs of cracked and collapsed silos, and the examples shown represent what may happen when concrete and tile silos are improperly constructed. But they should not be used to discredit these types of silos. Whenever farm buildings are not permanently located, or if for other reasons a temporary structure is desired, the wooden silo may be preferred to one of concrete or of other durable material. Where lumber is cheap, or where stone and gravel can not be readily obtained, the first cost of a wooden silo may be less than that of a concrete silo. It is for a permanent structure it is generally best to construct of tile, concrete, cement block, or some other durable material. Silos properly built of these materials are not likely to be damaged by winds. They must be properly reinforced, however, or they will crack and eventually fall down.

Improper Reinforcement.
In concrete, the cracking of the concrete silo is caused by too small a proportion of cement used in its construction. More often, however, the trouble is due to improper reinforcement. Aside from the danger of reinforcing, most of the failures of

concrete silos have been caused by poor and insufficient foundation.

The concrete silo should be built with a solid wall six inches thick and reinforced with steel rods or woven-wire fencing. The joints in each course of the wire fencing should overlap and the ends tied.

It is sometimes stated that the silage next to the wall will spoil for a distance of six inches. If the silage is not well packed and if the inside walls are left rough, it will spoil at the edges, but this may happen in any type of silo. If the inside walls are comparatively smooth and coated with raw coal tar thinned to the consistency of paint, and the silo is properly filled, the silage will keep in good condition for several years.

The impossibility of moving is another argument which has been used against concrete silos, but a man who builds for permanence and has a live stock business definitely established has no occasion for moving the silo.

Some concrete block and brick silos have been poorly constructed and improperly filled, but these are not sufficient reasons for condemning these types of silos. The unqualified assertion that tile, concrete, cement block and brick silos are not durable is not based on facts.

Details for constructing wooden and concrete silos may be obtained by applying to the department of agriculture.

U. S. NEED FEARED NO FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO EXPORTS

Enough Wheat Alone to Permit Shipping One Million Bushels a Day Until July—Corn and Meat Supply Big.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The department of agriculture has just issued the following statement:

The 1914 wheat crop of the United States was estimated to be 831,000,000 bushels, an estimated surplus carried over from the 1913 crop was about 78,000,000 bushels. There was, therefore, a total available supply of 909,000,000 bushels. As the normal annual per capita consumption of wheat in the United States is about 3.3 bushels, 320,000,000 bushels should meet our normal domestic requirements for food; in addition, 589,000,000 bushels are available for export. The 1914 cotton crop was estimated to be 10,000,000 bales, or 40,000,000 bushels more than our average annual export for the past five years, for export between Feb. 1 and the beginning of the new crop, or for carrying over into the next crop year. The amount is sufficient to permit the export of nearly 1,000,000 bushels a day until July 1, before which time the new crop will begin to be available. This is about the average recent exportation.

World's Crop Short.
The huge demand for our wheat arises from the fact that there was an estimated world's shortage of over 400,000,000 bushels outside of the United States; from the fact that the surplus among infants that number 100,000,000 bushels is not available generally, and from the fact that the belligerent nations are eager to secure food supplies. If it were not for the surplus among infants that number 100,000,000 bushels is not available generally, and from the fact that the belligerent nations are eager to secure food supplies. If it were not for the surplus among infants that number 100,000,000 bushels is not available generally, and from the fact that the belligerent nations are eager to secure food supplies.

As has been stated, the new American crop will begin to appear before July. The average of the new crop, coming on the market, is estimated that from that source there will be available 100,000,000 bushels. A surplus of 75,000,000 bushels or more, again, will be available by May and June. The increase in the fall sown wheat acreage of the United States in 1914 was 11.1 per cent, or over 4,000,000 acres, in the northern hemisphere. Notwithstanding the increase of winter wheat shows an increase of from three to 33 per cent, as follows:

Denmark 3 per cent
Italy 10 per cent
Switzerland 10 per cent
United Kingdom 10 per cent
United States 11 per cent
India 22 per cent
Canada 43 per cent

But suppose a shortage in wheat should develop in the next three months, what would be the situation? There is a great surplus in other food crops in the United States, a number of which can be used as substitutes. Wheat does not constitute more than 12 per cent of the normal diet, about the same as poultry and eggs. Meat and dairy products constitute 48 per cent; vegetables, 11 per cent; fruits, nuts, sugar, fish and other items, the remaining 19 per cent. There are larger supplies of such articles as wheat, meat, milk, and dairy products, potatoes and fruit at the opening of 1915 than for many years.

Corn and Potatoes Complete.
The most important competing crops are corn and potatoes. This is shown by the fact that while the normal consumption of wheat is 3.3 bushels, in Maine it is only 4.7 bushels, and in Michigan five. In the wheat growing states where wheat is abundant, such as Minnesota, the average is 7.2, whereas in the south, where corn is much used, the average is four bushels. The normal consumption of the corn crop is consumed as food. Of our total crop, about 80,000,000 would be used as food, the remainder for other purposes. The remainder could be used for food or substituted for wheat for animals. The potato production in the United States averages 3.8 bushels per capita. This year the available supply is 4.1 bushels. The average price of meat animals was seven per cent cheaper in January than a year ago, but two per cent lower, the price

WHEAT AND COTTON CROPS SET MARKS

Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington Bear Brunt of Losses—Average Per Fire is \$103.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27.—The crop reporting board of the federal department of agriculture has just made public its estimate of the 1914 farm crops of the United States. Fourteen crops, covering 300,782,000 acres or 92 per cent of the nation's cultivated area, are included in the report and the combined farm value of all products is estimated at \$4,945,000,000.

Although the 1914 production of crops is 10 per cent greater than the previous year, the aggregate farm value is \$20,000,000 less. Both the wheat and the cotton crops of the nation in 1914 were the largest on record. The cotton crop was nearly 16,000,000 bales and the wheat production was approximately 831,000,000 bushels. While the 1914 cotton crop was approximately 1,800,000 bales more than the one of 1913 the value was \$205,000,000 less. Cotton in 1913 averaged \$22.20 per acre against \$14.14 in 1914. The yield per acre in 1914 was 25 pounds more than in 1913 but the price per pound in 1914 was 6.8 cents and 12.2 cents in 1913.

Stockmen Approve Regulations.
After eight years of experience stockmen are well satisfied, says the chief forester, with the way the grazing of live stock on the forests is regulated, and have even urged upon congress the application of the same method of control to the unreserved public range. Almost 29,000 permits-tees graze stock on the national forests, and these paid to the government for the use of the land, amounting to over a million dollars. The present tendency to raise fewer sheep and goats and more cattle and horses is shown in the fact that the number of cattle and horse permits on the western forests increased last year by 1,579, while the number of sheep and goat permits fell off by a total of 295, thus a net increase of 1,284 permits. The forester points out, as becoming attached to the soil, and the itinerant sheep grower and the speculator in cattle are giving place to the permanent resident and owner of improved ranch property. The latter is always given preference in the use of national forest range.

Some \$400,000 was spent by the forest service during the year for permanent improvements on the national forests to make them accessible and to insure their protection from fire. These improvements include 270 miles of new road, 2,123 miles of trail, 2,662 miles of telephone line, 775 miles of fire line, and 105 lookout structures, besides bridges, corrals, fences and other improvements. The 442 miles of road were built for the public by the use of 10 per cent of the national forest receipts, as authorized by congress.

Under the new law, 25 per cent of the national forest receipts for the year, amounting to \$585,593.39, were paid over to the various states in which the forests lie for the benefit of county roads and bridges.

Much Land Settled.
Since 1909, when systematic classification of national forest lands was begun, more than 10,000,000 acres have been eliminated. Scattered in the national forests, never larger than 100,000 acres, these lands have been reduced to a very small amount.

He may not have an elaborate dairy farm, but he can be a successful milk producer in perfect health with the assistance of a veterinarian. It will be to his financial interest in the long run. Tar paper, whitewash and homemade cement will insure a sanitary stable at small cost.

Then, there should be a covered milking stall in place of the old-fashioned wide-mouthed stall. This will keep nine-tenths of the milk clean and safe. All milk utensils may be kept clean by the use of a brush and a solution of soda followed by a final rinsing in scalding water. If ice is not possible for one reason or another, it is not feasible for several farmers to combine their interest and secure a supply of ice at some central place at a reasonable cost.

I hope the readers of this paper are not superior to germs. If you are, send for some of the government literature on the subject of the care of milk. A request to the bureau of agriculture will bring a number of bulletins to your door, much to your enlightenment.

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of chickens slightly lower, of potatoes 35 per cent lower, and of apples it was 27 per cent lower. The price of wheat was 10 per cent higher, but it would seem that the United States is not likely to be threatened with a shortage of foodstuffs.

Need of Cooperation in the Battle for Clean, Pure Milk.
BY M. M. CARRICK, M. D., Sanitation Expert.

So many dramatic disclosures have been made in regard to the relation between dirty milk and the excessive death rate among infants that milk producers are beginning to realize as never before, the necessity of cooperation with the municipal authorities in their fight for pure milk.

Milk is certainly the most important article of food in the human diet, and it is also the most contaminable. It is, therefore, up to the farmer to see that the milk from his dairy gets to city markets as clean and pure as possible.

Not that this is an exclusively baby problem, for all sorts of diseases are carried through milk. Typhoid fever is an example of this class, and a number of epidemics of diphtheria and scarlet fever have been traced to the milk supply, but when we pause to consider that one-third of the babies born in the United States die in their infancy from preventable disease, and that 60 per cent of these are due to gastro-intestinal diseases, due to improper feeding or to milk that we naturally begin to look into the cause.

I realize, of course, that not every farmer can have his milking done scientifically, but it is possible for him to produce safe milk for his own use, and that of the public by very simple and inexpensive means.

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FORESTS PROVE THEIR VALUE AS REVENUE SOURCE

National Government During 1914 Received \$2,437,710— 21 From 185,000,000 Acres of Timber Land.

Selling some billion and a half board feet of timber and supervising the cutting on several thousand different areas, overseeing the grazing of more than 1,500,000 cattle and 7,500,000 sheep, and building more than 600 miles of road, 2,000 miles of trail, 2,000 miles of telephone line, and 700 miles of fire line are some of the things which the government forest service did last year, as disclosed in the report by the chief forester for 1914. These activities were all on the national forests, which at present total about 185,000,000 acres.

There is no doubt according to the chief forester, to increase the cut of timber from the national forests wherever a fair price can be obtained for the stumpage, because a great deal of it is mature and ought to be taken out to make room for young growth. Unfavorable conditions in the lumber trade caused new sales of national forest timber to fall off somewhat during the past year, though the operations on outstanding sales contracts brought the total cut above that of the previous year by 130,000,000 board feet. There was, however, a big increase in small timber sales, these numbering 8,298 in 1914, against 6,132 the previous year. Desirable blocks of national forest timber have been appraised and put on the market, and it is expected that these will find purchasers when conditions in the lumber industry improve. All told, the government received \$2,437,710 from the sale of timber on the forests in 1914. The receipts from all sources totaled \$2,437,710.21.

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Here is One Man Makes Money Out of One Month Old Chicks

In the "Poultry Raising" department of the current issue of Farm and Fireside a contributor tells in part as follows how he raises and sells month-old chickens:

"Last summer I decided to try a new phase of the poultry business. It was the selling of chicks, not day-old chicks, but one-month-old ones. I knew there was money to be made, being made by selling 'day-old' chicks at 10 or 15 cents each.

"However, I knew there were many people who would be glad to pay more to get put-bred chicks that were already past the danger period. Therefore I determined to hatch some chicks, raise them to the age of one month, and then sell them. With this in view I started a 140 egg incubator on the 15th of March, filling it with 140 eggs. At the end of three weeks I took 110 nice, lively chicks from the incubator. I immediately filled the incubator with eggs, and continued filling it three weeks until the 15th of June.

"In all I put 550 eggs into the incubator and took 335 chicks out of it. I realized that I could not sell all the chicks locally to advantage, therefore I had a small advertisement inserted

in a paper, offering pure-bred one-month-old chicks at 35 cents each. The advertisement cost me \$5 for three insertions. I receive inquiries every day through this ad.

"I had some neat letterheads and envelopes printed, and answered all inquiries the same day they were received. I also had a photographer take a picture of a 'bunch' of my chicks, and enclosed one in every letter I sent out. I think that helped me sell my chicks more than anything else. I found that there was a good demand for four-week-old chicks, and at times had more orders for them than I could fill.

"The inquiries and an occasional order kept on coming for weeks after I had sold all I had. I never imagined that there would be such a demand for them or I would have run several incubators instead of one.

"I received 35 cents each for my chicks, while the total cost of raising them, including cost of eggs, feed, advertising, etc., was 15 cents each. However, mine were only utility stock. Fancy, or those having extra good stock, would have no trouble getting 50 cents each or more for them."

FOREST FIRE LOSS IN 1914 IS \$677,816 Production of 1914 is Greater Than Previous Year, But Farm Value Less.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27.—Fire in the national forests of the west in 1914 caused a loss of the government of not quite 340,000,000 board feet of merchantable timber, valued at \$767,203, and the loss of land, or young growth of trees, valued at \$192,408, according to statistics just compiled by the forest service. There were 6,605 fires, of which only 1,545 burned over an area of ten acres or more. About 77 per cent of all the fires did damage of less than \$100 each. In addition to the losses suffered by the government, timber on state and private lands within the forests, totaled 228,000,000 board feet and valued at \$175,302, was lost. The total area burned over was 690,240 acres, of which 310,583 acres were state and private lands.

Notwithstanding that it was an exceptionally bad year for fires, on account of high temperatures, heavy winds and prolonged drought, the average loss per acre was \$102, as against \$121 in 1911, when there were only about half as many fires. Eighty-five per cent of the total loss was caused by fires in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, where the receipts from all sources totaled \$2,437,710.21.

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